

SIG

The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives *signal* of a goodly day to-morrow. *Shakesp. R. III.*
Scarce the dawning day began to spring,
As at a *signal* giv'n, the streets with clamours ring. *Dryden.*
SIGNAL, *adj.* [*signal*, French.] Eminent; memorable; remarkable.
He was esteemed more by the parliament, for the *signal* acts
of cruelty committed upon the Irish. *Clarendon.*
The Thames frozen twice in one year, so as men to walk
on it, is a very *signal* accident. *Swift.*
SIGNALITY, *n. f.* [*signal*,] Quality of something remarkable or memorable.
Of the ways whereby they enquired and determined its *signal*,
the first was natural, arising from physical causes. *Brown.*
It seems a *signal* in providence, in erecting your society in
such a juncture of dangerous humours. *Glanv. Scijs. Pref.*
To *SIGNALIZE*, *v. a.* [*signal*, French.] To make eminent;
to make remarkable.
Many, who have endeavoured to *signalize* themselves by
works of this nature, plainly discover that they are not acquainted
with the most common systems of arts and sciences. *Addison's Spectator.*
Some one eminent spirit, having *signalized* his valour and
fortune in defence of his country, or by the practice of popular
arts at home, becomes to have great influence on the people.
SIGNALLY, *adv.* [*from signal*,] Eminently; remarkably; memorably.
Persons *signally* and eminently obliged, yet missing of the
utmost of their greedy designs in swallowing both gifts and
giver too, instead of thanks for received kindnesses, have betook
themselves to barbarous threatenings. *South's Sermons.*
SIGNATION, *n. f.* [*from sign*, Latin.] Sign given; act of
betokening.
A horridose Baptista Porta hath thought too low a *signa*-
ture, he raised unto a luxury representation. *Brown.*
SIGNATURE, *n. f.* [*signature*, Fr. *signature*, from *sign*, Lat.]
1. A sign or mark impressed upon any thing; a stamp; a mark.
The brain being well furnished with various traces, *signa*-
tures, and images, will have a rich treasure always ready to
be offered to the soul. *Watts.*
That natural and indelible *signature* of God, which human
souls, in their first origin, are supposed to be stamped with,
we have no need of in disputes against atheism. *Bentley.*
Vulgar parents cannot stamp their race
With *signatures* of such majestic grace. *Pope's Odyssey.*
2. A mark upon any matter, particularly upon plants, by which
their nature or medicinal use is pointed out.
All bodies work by the communication of their nature, or
by the impression and *signatures* of their motions: the diffusion
of species visible, seemeth to participate more of the former,
and the species audible of the latter. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
Some plants bear a very evident *signature* of their nature
and use. *More against Atheism.*
Seek out for plants, and *signatures*,
To quack of universal cures. *Hudibras.*
Herbs are described by marks and *signatures*, so far as to
distinguish them from one another. *Baker on Learning.*
3. Proof; evidence.
The most despicable pieces of decayed nature are curiously
wrought with eminent *signatures* of divine wisdom. *Glanv.*
Some rely on certain marks and *signatures* of their election,
and others on their belonging to some particular church or
sect. *Rogers's Sermons.*
4. [Among printers.] Some letter or figure to distinguish different
sheets.
SIGNATURIST, *n. f.* [*from signature*,] One who holds the
doctrine of signatures.
Signaturists seldom omit what the ancients delivered, drawing
unto inference received distinctions. *Brown.*
SIGNET, *n. f.* [*signette*, French.] A seal commonly used for
the seal-manual of a king.
I've been bold,
For that I knew it the most gen'ral way,
To them to use your *signet* and your name. *Shakesp. Timon.*
Here is the hand and seal of the duke: you know the character,
I doubt not, and the *signet*. *Shakesp. Meas. for Meas.*
Give thy *signet*, bracelets, and staff. *Gen. xxxviii. 18.*
He delivered him his private *signet*. *Kneller.*
He knew my pleasure to discharge his bands:
Proof of my life my royal *signet* made,
Yet still he arm'd. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*
The impression of a *signet* ring. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*
SIGNIFICANCE, *n. f.* [*from signify*,]
SIGNIFICANCY, *n. f.* [*from signify*,]
1. Power of signifying; meaning.
Speaking is a sensible expression of the notions of the mind
by discriminations of utterance of voice, used as signs, having
by consent several determinate *significances*. *Holder.*
If he declares he intends it for the honour of another, he
takes away by his words the *significance* of his action. *Stillings.*

2. Force; energy; power of impressing the mind.

The clearness of conception and expression, the boldness
maintained to majesty, the *significance* and sound of words,
not strained into bombast, must escape our transient view upon
the theatre. *Dryden.*

As far as this duty will admit of privacy, our Saviour hath
enjoined it in terms of particular *significance* and force. *Atter.*
I have been admiring the wonderful *significance* of that word
perfection, and what various interpretations it hath ac-
quired. *Swift.*

3. Importance; moment; consequence.
How fatal would such a distinction have proved in former
reigns, when many a circumstance of less *significance* has been
construed into an overt act of high treason? *Addison.*

SIGNIFICANT, *adj.* [*significant*, Fr. *significatif*, Latin.]

1. Expressive of something beyond the external mark.

Since you are tongue-ty'd, and so loth to speak,
In dumb *significants* proclaim your thoughts. *Shakesp. H. VI.*

2. Betokening; standing as a sign of something.

It was well said of Plotinus, that the stars were *significant*,
but not efficient. *Ralph.*

3. Expressive or representative in an eminent degree; forcible to
impress the intended meaning.

Whereas it may be objected, that to add to religious duties
such rites and ceremonies as are *significant*, is to institute new
sacraments. *Hesker.*

Common life is full of this kind of *significant* expressions,
by knocking, beckoning, frowning, and pointing; and dumb
persons are gacious in the use of them. *Fielder on Speech.*

The Romans joined both devices, to make the emblem the
more *significant*; as, indeed, they could not too much extol the
learning and military virtues of this emperor. *Addison.*

4. Important; momentous. A low word.

SIGNIFICANTLY, *adv.* [*from signify*,] With force of ex-
pression.

Christianity is known in Scripture by no name so *signifi*-
cantly as by the simplicity of the Gospel. *South's Sermons.*

SIGNIFICATION, *n. f.* [*signification*, French; *significatio*, Latin;
from *signify*,]

1. The act of making known by signs.

A lie is properly a species of injustice, and a violation of
the right of that person to whom the false speech is directed;
for all speaking, or *signification* of one's mind, implies an act
or address of one man to another. *South.*

2. Meaning expressed by a sign or word.

An adjective requirerh another word to be joined with him,
to shew his *signification*. *Academe.*

Brute animals make divers motions to have several *signifi*-
cations, to call, warn, cherish, and threaten. *Holder.*

SIGNIFICATIVE, *adj.* [*significatif*, Fr. from *signify*,]

The holy symbols or signs are not barely *significative*, but
what by divine institution they represent and testify unto our
souls, is truly and certainly delivered unto us. *Brerewood.*

2. Forcible; strongly expressive.

Neither in the degrees of kindred they were destitute of
significative words; for whom we call grandfather, they called
caldader; whom we call great-grandfather, they called third-
father. *Camden's Remains.*

SIGNIFICATORY, *n. f.* [*from signify*,] That which signifies
or betokens.

Here is a double *significatory* of the spirit, a word and a
sign. *Taylor.*

To *SIGNIFY*, *v. a.* [*signifier*, French; *signific*, Latin.]

1. To declare by some token or sign.

The maid from that ill omen turn'd her eyes,
Nor knew what *signify'd* the boding sign, *Dryden.*
But found the pow'r's displeas'd.

Those parts of nature, into which the chaos was divided,
they *signified* by dark and obscure names; as the night, tar-
tarus, and oceanus. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

2. To mean; to express.

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more! It is a tale,
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing! *Shakesp. Macbeth.*

Stephano, *signify*

Within the house your mistress is at hand. *Shakesp. Lear.*

3. To import; to weigh. This is seldom used but interrogati-
vely, *what signifies?* or with *much*, *little*, or *nothing*.

Though he that sins frequently, and repents frequently,
gives reason to believe his repentances before God *signify*
nothing; yet that is nothing to us. *Taylor.*

What signifies the splendor of courts, considering the slavish
attendants that go along with it? *LeStrange.*

He hath one way more, which although it *signify* little to
men of sober reason, yet unhappily hits the suspicious humour
of men, that governors have a design to impose. *Ellis.*

If the first of these fail, the power of Adam, were it never
so great, will *signify* nothing to the present societies in the
world. *Locke.*

SIG

SIL

What signifies the people's consent in making and repealing
laws, if the person who administers hath no tie. *Swift.*

4. To make known.

I'll to the king, and *signify* to him,
That thus I have resign'd to you my charge. *Shakesp. R. III.*

He sent and *signified* it by his angel unto John. *Rev. i. 1.*

The government should *signify* to the protestants of Ireland,
that want of silver is not to be remedied. *Swift.*

To *SIGNIFY*, *v. n.* To express meaning with force.

If the words be but comely and *signifying*, and the sense
gentle, there is juice; but where that wanteth, the language is
thin. *Ben. Jonson.*

SIGNIFY, *n. f.* [*signoria*, Italian.] Lordship; dominion.

If ancient sorrow be most reverent,
Give mine the benefit of *signify*,
And let my griefs frown on the upper hand. *Shakesp. R. III.*

At that time
Through all the *signiferies* it was the first,
And Prospero the prime duke. *Shakesp. Tempest.*

The earls, their titles and their *signiferies*

They must restore again. *Daniel's Civil War.*

My brave progenitors, by valour, zeal,
Gain'd those high honours, princely *signiferies*,
And proud prerogatives. *West.*

SIGNIFY, *n. f.* [*sign* and *post*,] That upon which a sign hangs.

He should share with them in the preserving
A shed or *signify*. *Ben. Jonson's Catiline.*

This noble invention of our author's hath been copied by so
many *signify* dawblers, that now tis grown fulsome, rather
by their want of skill than by the commonness. *Dryden.*

SIGNIFY, *adv.* The old word for *sure*, or *surely*. *Spenfer.*

SIGNIFY, *n. f.* [*from sign*,] Sureness; safety.

SIGNIFY, *n. f.* [*silence*, French; *silentium*, Latin.]

1. The state of holding peace.

Unto me men gave ear, and waited and kept *silence* at my
counsel. *Job xxix. 21.*

I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over
the man, but to be in *silence*. *1 Tim. ii. 12.*

First to himself he inward *silence* broke. *Milton.*

2. Habitual taciturnity; not loquacity.

I think the best grace of wit will shortly turn into *silence*,
And discourse grow commendable in none but parrots. *Shak.*

3. Secrecy.

4. *Silence*; not noise.

Here all their rage, and ev'n their murmurs cease;
And sacred *silence* reigns, and universal peace. *Pope.*

5. Not mention.

Thus fame shall be achiev'd,
And what most merits fame in *silence* bid. *Milton.*

SILENCE, *interj.* An authoritative restraint of speech.

Sir, have pity; I'll be his surety.—
—*Silence*: one word more

Shall make me chide thee, if not hate thee. *Shakesp. Lear.*

To *SILENCE*, *v. a.* [*from the noun*] To still; to oblige
to hold peace.

We must suggest the people, that to's pow'r
He wou'd have made them mules, *silenc'd* their pleaders, and
Disproportioned their freedoms. *Shakesp. Lear.*

The ambassador is *silenc'd*. *Shakesp. Lear. VIII.*

Silence that dreadful bell, it frights the life
From her propriety. *Shakesp. Lear. Othello.*

This passed as an oracle, and *silenc'd* those that moved
the question. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*

Thus could not the mouths of worthy martyrs be *silenc'd*,
who being expos'd unto wolves, gave loud expressions of their
faith, and were heard as high as heaven. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

This would *silence* all further opposition. *Clarendon.*

Since in dark sorrow I my days did spend,
I could not *silence* my complaints. *Denham.*

These dying lovers, and their floating fons,
Suspend the fight and *silence* all our guns. *Waller.*

Had they duly considered the extent of infinite knowledge
and power, these would have *silenc'd* their scruples, and they
had adored the amazing mystery. *Rogers's Sermons.*

If it please him altogether to *silence* me, so that I shall not
only speak with difficulty, but wholly be disabled to open my
mouth, to any articulate utterance; yet I hope he will give
me grace, even in my thoughts, to praise him. *Wake.*

The thunderer spoke, nor durst the queen reply;
A reverend horror *silenc'd* all the sky. *Pope's Iliad.*

1. Not speaking; mute.

O my God, I cry in the day time, and in the night sca-
son I am not *silent*. *Psalms xxii. 2.*

Silent, and in face

Confounded long they fat as stricken mute. *Milton.*

Be not *silent* to me: left if thou be *silent*, I become like
those that go down into the pit. *Psalms xxviii. 1.*

2. Not talkative; not loquacious.

Ulysses, adds he, was the most eloquent and most *silent* of
men; he knew that a word spoken never wrought to much good
as a word conceal'd. *Notes on the Odyssey.*

SIL

3. Still; having no noise.

Deep night, dark night, the *silent* of the night,
The time of night when Troy was set on fire,
The time when screech-owls cry, and ban-dogs howl. *Shak.*

Now is the pleasant time,
The cool, the *silent*, save where silence yields
To the night-warbling bird. *Milton.*

4. Wanting efficacy. I think an Hebraism.

Second and instrumental causes, together with nature itself,
without that operative faculty which God gave them, would
become *silent*, virtueless and dead. *Raleigh's History.*

The sun to me is dark,
And *silent* as the moon,
When he deserts the night,
Hid in her vacant interlunar cave. *Milton.*

5. Not mentioning.

This new created world, whereof in hell
Fame is not *silent*. *Milton.*

SILENTLY, *adv.* [*from silent*,]

1. Without speech.

When with one three nations join to fight,
They *silently* confess that one more brave. *Dryden.*

For me they beg, each *silently*

Demands thy grace, and seems to watch thy eye. *Dryden.*

2. Without noise.

You to a certain victory are led;
Your men all arm'd stand *silently* within. *Dryden.*

3. Without mention.

The difficulties remain still, till he can show who is meant
by right heir, in all those cases where the present possessor hath
no son: this he *silently* passes over. *Locke.*

SILICIOUS, *adj.* [*from silium*,] It should be therefore written
siliuous. Made of hair.

The *siliuous* and hairy vests of the strictest orders of friars,
derive their institution from St. John and Elias. *Brown.*

SILICULOSE, *adj.* [*siliula*, Latin.] Husky; full of husks. *Dict.*

SILICINOSE, *adj.* [*siliquis*, Latin.] Made of fine wheat. *Dict.*

SILICIOUS, *n. f.* [*Latin*]

1. [With gold finers.] A carat of which six make a scruple.

2. [*Siliques*, French, with botanists.] The seed-vessel, husk, cod,
or shell of such plants as are of the pulse kind. *Dict.*

SILICOSE, *n. f.* [*from siliques*, Latin.] Having a pod, or
SILICOSE, *n. f.* [*capula*,]

All the tetrapetalous *siliques* plants are alkalescent. *Arbut.*

SILK, *n. f.* [*seolc*, Saxon.]

1. The thread of the worm that turns afterwards to a butterfly.

The worms were hallow'd that did breed the *silk*;
And it was dy'd in mummy, which the skilful
Conserv'd of maiden's hearts. *Shakesp. Lear. Othello.*

2. The stuff made of the worms thread.

Let not the creaking of shoes, or rustling of *silks* betray
thy poor heart to woman. *Shakesp. Lear.*

He caus'd the thure to be covered with Persian *silk* for
him to tread upon. *Kneller.*

Without the worm, in Persian *silks* we shine. *Waller.*

SILKEN, *adj.* [*from silk*,]

1. Made of *silk*.

Men counsel and give comfort to that grief
Which they themselves not feel; but tasting it,
Their counsel turns to passion, which before
Would give preceptual medicine to rage;
Fetter strong madness in a *silken* thread;
Charm ach with air, and agony with words. *Shakesp. Lear.*

Now, will we revel it
With *silken* coats, and caps, and golden rings. *Shakesp. Lear.*

She weeps,
And words address'd seem tears dissolv'd,
Wetting the borders of her *silken* veil. *Milton.*

2. Soft; tender.

Full many a lady fair, in court full oft
Beholding them, him secretly envide,
And wish that two such fans, so *silken* soft,
And golden fair, her love would her provide. *Spenfer.*

All the youth of England are on fire,
And *silken* dalliance in the wardrobe lies. *Shakesp. Hen. V.*

For then the hills with pleasing shades are crown'd,
And sleeps are sweeter on the *silken* ground. *Dryden.*

Dress up virtue in all the beauties of oratory, and you will
find the wild passions of men too violent to be restrained by
such mild and *silken* language. *Watts's Improv. of the Mind.*

3. Dressed in silk.

Shall a beardless boy,
A cocker'd, *silken* wanton, brave our fields,
And flesh his spirit in a warlike foil,
Mocking the air with colours idly spread,
And find no check? *Shakesp. Lear. Othello.*

SILKME'RCER, *n. f.* [*silk* and *merc*,] A dealer in silk.

SILKWEAVER, *n. f.* [*silk* and *weaver*,] One whose trade is
to weave *silken* stuffs.

True English hate your *monieurs* paltry arts;
For you are all *silk-weavers* in your hearts. *Dryden.*

The Chinese are ingenious *silk-weavers*. *Watts.*

SILKWORM.